

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 3/3/2022 (7 – 7:30 PM) via Zoom Session**

**Attendees (13):** Joe Walsh, Sandra Owens, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts, Ed Boehner, Seamus Kearney, Jim Ruddick, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan. Joe Walsh moderated the meeting. Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Joan Markoe reported the following information:

PNC Bank Statement for Period Ending February 28, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$30,739.06	
Deposits	\$ 48.02	(renewal dues/donation from 2 members)
Deductions	\$ 304.85	(supply of dog waste bags)
Ending Balance	\$30,482.23	

**Membership Report:**

Two members renewed in February 2022 for the upcoming membership year which starts April 1. We will start sending communications out in late March encouraging members to renew and other neighbors to join. This will include emails, posts on Facebook and Next Door Neighbors. Suzanne Cross will set up posters for the park’s trash cans. Jim Ruddick will include the membership flyer in LSNA newsletter. Joan will meet with Peg and Marion to discuss tracking memberships.

**Little Library:** Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson have ordered the Little Library kit which is being assembled by an Amish group in Wisconsin. We will be part of a special program, “Read in Color,” which encourages diversity. The total cost of this project is about \$560. Already about 4 boxes of books have been donated. Peg volunteered to be the librarian. Stan Ordo will work with Peg on installing the library atop the tree stump at the northwest park entrance. April is the expected date for the Little Library to be functioning.

**Park Maintenance:** April 2nd will be the date for the monthly clean-up to coincide with the Philadelphia city-wide clean-up. This is a change from the usual clean-up schedule of the 2nd Saturday of the month. In addition, Joe Walsh volunteered for a special project to place stickers on storm drains surrounding the park. These labels remind people that whatever goes down the drain ends up in the Schuylkill River. There are 15 stickers to be installed. Contact Joe if you wish to volunteer for the project which involves cleaning the area and adding adhesive to the sticker. Also, Joe Walsh requested from Tree Philly a bald cypress tree for the north central area of the park. However, he is unsure if we will get the tree.

**Gardening/Planting Committee:** Nancy Van Arkel, Beth Shay, Mary Feingold, Carol Ruddick, and Pam Parseghian met to survey the park and identify possible areas for plantings. A Gardening/Planting Committee is being formed for those interested in volunteering. On another note, Joe Walsh, Sandy Owens, and Nancy Van Arkel pruned the clematis and wild grape vines from along the southern fence.

**Story Walk:** Because of the success of the two Story Walks last year, Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson are interested in setting up another child’s Story Walk in the park in May. Contact Peg if you have a book suggestion or wish to volunteer.

**Website News:** Check out the latest history article on our website by Joe Walsh about the Watermark, a local residential senior life care center. It also provides interesting facts about two other local institutions, the Magee Rehabilitation Center and the Hangar Clinic. Here is the link:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/the-watermark>

**Future Events:**

“Love Your Park” is scheduled for the first weekend in May, so our monthly park clean-up will occur on Saturday, May 7th, instead of the usual 2nd Saturday.

Joe Walsh is preparing the popular “Scavenger Hunt” for Saturday, May 14th.

“Movie Night” is tentatively scheduled for either Thursday, September 1st, or August 25th. Contact Joe Walsh with suggestions for movies rated “G” or “PG” and which are two hours or less in length.

Jim Fennell sent an email to Parks & Recreation requesting that Baldwin Park be placed on the list of parks interested in hosting Parks-on-Tap, if the program is revived.

**Calendar of Events:**

March Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 3/12/2022	10 AM	Monthly Park clean-up
April Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 4/2/2022	10 AM	Monthly Park clean-up
April Meeting	Thursday 4/7/2022	7 PM	Zoom or in-person at Tivoli
May Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 5/7/2022	10 AM	“Love Your Park” clean-up
Scavenger Hunt	Saturday 5/14/22	10 AM	Scavenger Hunt

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.